

Questions and Answers for
Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program Evaluation and Outcomes
Study for El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, and Costa Rica
INL21CA0036-GRETEval-CARSI-08182021
Date: September 20, 2021

Question 1:

Are “U.S.-based non-profit/non-governmental organizations (NGOs)” eligible to apply as prime?

INL Response:

No, this award has limited eligibility to US-based educational institutions as stated in the NOFO.

Question 2:

If “U.S.-based non-profit/non-governmental organizations (NGOs)” are ineligible to apply as prime, would we be able to support another team as a sub?

INL Response:

The main applicant must be a US based higher education. If they see a need to subcontract/subaward to fulfill award activities, it would be their call to include this in a proposal.

Question 3:

Past evaluations of GREAT in the U.S. have been based on designs in which some youth were assigned to participate in/receive the GREAT curriculum, while others were not; an experimental design was used in which a control group of youth was established prior to the delivery of the GREAT curriculum. Was a similar design used in each of the four countries, or was no control group established during curriculum delivery? The description of ‘Activity 2’ on page 6 seems to suggest there were no control groups of youth or schools established at the time of curriculum delivery.

INL Response:

No, there were no controls group selected or identified through the delivery of the curriculum. However, the program has not been delivered in many of the schools in any of the participating countries, therefore the suggestion of using a control group for the lengthier study was made.

Question 4:

How were the participant schools in the GREAT program selected in each country? Did all countries follow a standard protocol for selecting participant schools, or each country followed its own criteria? Also, was the program adapted to each country or did all countries follow the same model? Have there been any changes to this model over time?

INL Response:

The participating schools were selected by the Police Force in each country. The common denominator was to select schools located in areas with higher criminal activities. The program has been tailored/tropicalized for the Region. The certified team leaders in the Region meet once a year to review the curriculum and update it if necessary. The model is basically the same. Some updates are to the names or words used in the text to be more appropriate to the Latin culture, but the core remains the same.

Question 5:

Was any pre-curriculum delivery data collected from the participating youth on gang affiliation, attitudes toward the police, etc.? Was any post-curriculum data collected? Or, is this data what is expected to be collected as part of the proposed evaluation? If prior data have been collected, can the successful applicant have access to all such data in each country?

INL Response:

INL San Salvador conducted on-the-spot surveys for another prevention program which included some questions on attitude towards the police. These can be shared. However specifically for the GREAT Program no pre-curriculum delivery was collected. Yes, this is expected for the lengthier study.

Question 6:

Were any fidelity or process evaluations conducted of the GREAT program at any point during implementation that would either ensure homogeneity of implementation, or suggest important differences in implementation between geographies?

INL Response:

The recipient responsible for the program implementation conducts regional in-service trainings and schedules monitoring visits to each country once a year to ensure quality and homogeneity of implementation.

Question 7:

Were there any evaluations conducted in these countries? Was the performance of the program monitored in these countries? If so, which indicators were used? Will this data be made available to the successful applicant?

INL Response:

The program implementer schedules monitoring visits to ensure quality of the program. Reports were received for each visit and are available for reference. The monitoring visits are centered in assuring instructors are delivering the program homogenously throughout the region and per the established standards.

Question 8:

Was training for GREAT facilitators centralized through DOS/INL, or were facilitators trained by local implementers or via a train-the-trainer model? Were records of assessments during/after those trainings preserved and will they be available to the research team?

INL Response:

Instructors were certified in Central America through multiple grants funded by INL since 2010. INL and the implementer have a common data base of instructors. All existing information will be available to the selected applicant.

Question 9:

Will the successful applicant be provided with program reports that outline progress and challenges in each school/jurisdiction/country?

INL Response:

All prior program reports can be provided to the successful applicant. These reports are for the instructor certification purposes. Specific information on schools will be provided by INL and/or Police contacts in each country. Meetings are suggested with the Police, Ministries of Education (where applicable) and INL.

Question 10:

Do students who participate in the program participate in all activities (for example, in Honduras they talk of the school curricula, activities during vacations and family activities), or can they only participate in some of these?

INL Response:

Students who participate in the curriculum are eligible to as many activities as they wish.

Question 11:

Are the existing databases provided by INL up to date, or does INL expect that the successful applicant conducts some updating, cleaning, and verification of those databases?

INL Response:

The instructor databases are managed and updated by the program implementer. If the need is identified in the process of the study, it could be a helpful tool to standardize the children's data base throughout the region.

Question 12:

Is the database of the families of kids that have participated in the GREAT program specific only to El Salvador, or are there databases of families for each of the four countries?

INL Response:

Police in all countries should have a database available for the program.

Question 13:

Has the program been implemented every academic year in all countries since 2010? Is the GREAT program currently active in all four countries? If not, what was the last year implemented in each country?

INL Response:

The program has been implemented in Honduras and El Salvador since 2010. Panama began in 2011 and Costa Rica in 2013. The program was paused in 2020 due to COVID as all schools were closed.

Question 14:

Are there expectations of data to be collected from teachers, principals, and parents for schools that did not have the GREAT curriculum delivered?

INL Response:

Yes, this will give us reference of the impact that the program had versus those that were not exposed and/or benefitted by the program.

Question 15:

The NOFO indicates that there should be a comparison between the data collected and the actual levels of criminal activity. Do these refer to official data at the community/school level? Will the successful applicant have access to official data at the local level in the schools/communities

where GREAT has been implemented? Could this comparison be waived if the official data does not have a local level of disaggregation or have reliability issues?

INL Response:

The successful applicant will have access to all available information regarding the communities and targeted schools. This will be provided by PNC Prevention in coordination with INL. If the local data does not have the level of disaggregation or has reliability issues, INL could evaluate and possibly waive the comparison. However, an alternate comparison or analysis method should ideally be proposed.

Question 16:

Recent political developments in some of the countries where GREAT has been implemented have strained the diplomatic relationships between the U.S. and those countries? Does DOS/INL anticipate any issues that may prevent the cooperation of local government institutions in this evaluation project? Will the local INL missions support the activities contemplated in this project by advocating with local authorities and facilitating critical government contacts?

INL Response:

No, at this point we do not anticipate these issues to prevent the cooperation of the local governments. In this case, the relationships with the prevention police contacts remains the same. Yes, INL will support the activities contemplated in this cooperative agreement.

Question 17:

What type of incentives can the research team provide to potential subject participants? Is it allowed to provide monetary or in-kind incentives? Is there a maximum allowed?

INL Response:

No monetary incentives should be necessary to survey or interview subject participants.

Question 18:

Would we be eligible to apply for the funding opportunity INL21CA0036-GRETEval-CARSI-08182021 based off the attached Dept of Education letter?

INL Response:

Yes.

Question 19:

Is this RFP for fact-finding only? In the RFP it mentions that reports must be cleared with client approval prior to publishing. Hoping for clarification on this.

INL Response:

The NOFO seeks an initial assessment and a lengthier study. Once these are completed results will be shared with the police and other government institutions in each country. The shorter version or executive summary will be shared publicly and before this happens it must be cleared by INL.

Question 20:

Does the provided database of “families of kids” who have participated in G.R.E.A.T. cover only El Salvador, or all countries? Regardless of countries covered, what is in the database?

INL Response:

Police in all countries should have a database available for the program. These data bases are limited to the identification of the kids, parents, and officers who have participated in the program components.

Question 21:

Is there a database of officers in countries other than El Salvador? What is in the El Salvador database (and databases from other countries, if available)?

INL Response:

The database includes the names, ranks and location/assignment of the certified officers.

Question 22:

What is included in the database of implementing public schools in each country—is this a list of schools that implemented G.R.E.A.T. or does it include data on students who participated in G.R.E.A.T.?

INL Response:

The data base includes the names of the schools where the program has been implemented. Lists of students benefitted will also be available through the Police Prevention Departments.

Question 23:

Does the budget have to be divided by country or can it all be combined into one budget to cover simultaneous work across all countries?

INL Response:

There should be one project proposal narrative but, the budget must be broken down by countries per the funding detailed in the NOFO. There should be a budget summary that reflects total funding per line item.

Question 24:

Are we evaluating any on-going programs or only programs for which implementation is over?

INL Response:

The program is on-going this what will allow the in-depth study.